$3 Million Gift Supports New Building

Westminster Choir College of Rider University has been awarded a $3 million gift from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pa., to help support the construction of a $7.5 million new academic and performance building planned for the Westminster Choir College campus.

In recognition of the Hillman family’s longstanding commitment to Westminster, the performance portion of the new building will be named The Hillman Performance Center in honor of Westminster alumna Elsie Hillman ’48. It will be part of Marion Buckelew Cullen Hall, named for the philanthropist who has contributed a planned gift to Westminster, which is the largest single gift in the Choir College’s history.

“We are profoundly grateful to the Foundation and to our good friends, Elsie and Henry Hillman, for their generous support of this important project,” said Rider University President Mordechai Rozanski. “The construction of the new building will greatly enhance the Westminster Choir College campus by providing significantly better teaching, learning and performance spaces for our students and faculty. It also positions Westminster for continued success in the future.”

A Convocation First

“No way!” the students in Bristol Chapel exclaimed when Dean Robert Annis announced that Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Philadelphia Orchestra’s new music director, was speaking at the Opening Convocation…from Vienna, via Skype.

But sure enough, the next words everyone heard were “Yes, hi, good afternoon,” spoken with a French-Canadian accent. “I am thrilled to be part, even from Vienna, of this wonderful event with all of you in Princeton. I wish obviously that I would be with you this afternoon. Unfortunately, as I just mentioned, Vienna is a little bit far, and if it were at a time when the Concorde was still going on maybe I could have taken it. Anyway, now technology allows me to speak with you today.”

He went on to speak enthusiastically about studying with Joseph Flummerfelt at Westminster for two summers and said that he was looking forward to the Westminster Symphonic Choir’s performances of Brahms’ Ein deutsches Requiem with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

“The Westminster Symphonic Choir, for me, remains the example of what a great choir must be: wonderful musicians getting together to get to the goal of the ultimate quality of sound, which is not only about sound, but heartfelt music making with seasoned musicians who want to learn and go deeper with every music they approach. And that’s why, for me, in November with the Philadelphia Orchestra, this will be the materialization of a dream. It will really be, for me,
Critics Praise New Recording

Living Voices, the Naxos recording featuring the Westminster Williamson Voices, conductor James Jordan and organist Ken Cowan performing music by James Whitbourn, continues to garner critical praise.

Gramophone magazine wrote, “The tone of Westminster Williamson Voices is well honed, muscular and rich…A further plus is Ken Cowan’s outstanding organ playing, which is a treat in its own right.” BBC magazine awarded the recording four stars.

Opening with Whitbourn’s Son of God Mass, the recording features works associated with life and death, many of them world premieres, including Requiem canticorum and Living Voices, which was commissioned by the BBC as part of a broadcast from Westminster Abbey of a service held after the 9/11 attacks on the United States. The text, written by the United Kingdom’s Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion, is an integral part of the piece. For this recording the text is read by Westminster alumnus and actor Ronn Carroll ’56, MM’58.

“Music performance builds into its experience, we hope, both journey and story,” says Jordan. “For me and for the Westminster Williamson Voices, the experience of recording Living Voices and taking the journey that James Whitbourn’s music inspires has been both life changing and life affirming.”

James Whitbourn has an international reputation as a composer of choral music and music for television films and concert halls. His television work includes the lush orchestral score for the BBC series Son of God, on which the Son of God Mass is based. He’s been a visiting artist and a composer-in-residence at Westminster Choir College.

Saxophonist Jeremy Powell is also featured on the recording. He is a graduate of the Jazz and Contemporary Music program at New School University, and he was named “Best Saxophonist” by Creative Loafing’s 2010 Best of the Bay awards in Tampa. Since 2005 he has been a frequent collaborator with the Westminster Williamson Voices.

A podcast featuring James Whitbourn and James Jordan discussing the CD’s repertoire is on iTunes and the Westminster Web site at www.rider.edu/westminstertogo. Living Voices is available for purchase and download from Amazon.com and iTunes.

$3 Million Gift (continued from page 1)

The building will contain a 3,000-square-foot performance and rehearsal hall supported by a large lobby, a green room and other guest amenities. It will also include three flexibly configured classrooms that will accommodate a wide range of academic and choral uses. It will be located beside The Playhouse, creating a new quadrangle and courtyard that will be a primary outdoor venue for Westminster student and alumni events. An integrated connection to The Playhouse will provide improved access and audience amenities for that important performance and rehearsal facility.

Robert L. Annis, dean and director of Westminster Choir College, said, “This is one of the largest gifts in Westminster’s history. We are grateful to Elsie and Henry Hillman for their vision and continued support of Westminster and its programs. This is especially meaningful since Elsie Hillman is a member of the Talbott family, which helped found and nurture Westminster Choir College.” Over the years, the Hillman family has been extraordinarily generous to Westminster Choir College, supporting projects that have included the Elsie Hilliard Hillman Chair for Artistic Direction, endowed scholarships and technology on campus.

When added to prior commitments, the Hillman gift brings the total raised for the project to approximately $4.2 million in current gifts and pledges. As the total anticipated cost for the building is $7.5 million, Westminster is seeking $3.3 million in additional gifts to complete the necessary funding.

The University will present concepts for campus development, including this project, to the Regional Planning Board and is optimistic that the municipal review process and continued fundraising will be successful, allowing construction of the building to proceed on a timely basis.

A Convocation First (continued from page 1)

the best choir sound with the best orchestral sound maybe together,” he said.

“I am so happy to be part of this and also as a taste of the future because I want this to be the first of many projects that the Westminster Symphonic Choir will do with the Philadelphia Orchestra and maybe more generally, Westminster Choir College. So I hope you will all join me in this wonderful adventure and I am so looking forward to meeting you all,” he concluded.

Maestro Nézet-Séguin did manage to visit campus in person in November to prepare for the Westminster Symphonic Choir’s Brahms performances. “Nothing has changed,” he remarked as he entered The Playhouse, recalling his summer study there. It was a super-charged evening — another of the defining musical experiences that Westminster alumni remember for the rest of their lives.
Ingrid Clarfield Takes a Bow

Enthusiastic…dedicated…flamboyant…determined…demanding. These are just a few of the words that students and colleagues have used to describe Professor of Piano Ingrid Clarfield. As an artist, teacher and pedagogue she’s inspired audiences and students at Westminster Choir College and far beyond. Anyone who knows this whirlwind of talent and energy can add a new word to that list—survivor.

On March 29, 2007, after returning from the Music Teacher National Association’s conference in Toronto, Clarfield experienced a devastating stroke that paralyzed the left side of her body. This should have been the end of her career. Instead, she returned to teaching, reinventing herself to be even better than before.

Her struggle and triumph are documented in a new film, TAKE A BOW–The Ingrid Clarfield Story. The film takes an intimate look into her background, her passion for teaching and her close relationships with her family, colleagues and students. It also examines the challenges that she faced after the stroke and the sheer determination she needed to overcome her limitations.

“To say this has been and continues to be an amazing journey for me is an understatement,” says Clarfield. “The past four years have been full of unbelievable highs and lows. As I now relate this period of my life to the preceding 60 years, it takes on a whole new meaning. While there have been and continue to be many struggles and frustrations, I feel blessed in so many ways! With this film, I’m hoping I can help others who might be questioning the quality of their future because of a devastating illness or accident. I hope that by seeing how my life has changed they’ll see that it can still be fulfilling, but it’s different!”

The film was produced and directed by Lu Leslan, who saw Clarfield speak at the Washington State Music Teacher Association Conference in 2009. “I was impressed with how she was able to engage the students, the teachers and the audience in a way I have not seen before,” says Leslan. “We all were in awe of her energy, humor, and personality throughout her sessions, even more so with the knowledge that she had suffered a major stroke three years earlier. She demonstrated the music with Patti Roberson playing the left hand, and they were fabulous together.”

Leslan and her crew spent the next two years working on the project, traveling around the country to film Clarfield’s presentations at conferences and workshops. They also secured copies of television interviews from earlier in her career and filmed her in her home, in therapy sessions and teaching in her studio and at Westminster Choir College.

TAKE A BOW–The Ingrid Clarfield Story is also available as a DVD. To learn more or to purchase a copy, go to http://takeabowingrid.com.
Summer Programs 2012

Registration is open for all of our summer programs for students and adults—both in Princeton and abroad. **New this year—Westminster and Rider alumni receive $100 off any Summer Seminar!**

Some long-time favorite classes are being offered, as well as new programs that have been developed in response to requests from the music community.

In addition to the popular Westminster Conducting Institute, James Jordan will lead the Westminster Choral Pedagogy Institute. Using the Conducting Institute model, the Westminster Choral Pedagogy Institute offers conductors and teachers the opportunity to sharpen their rehearsal skills. They’ll also gain insight into such areas as the philosophy of group vocal technique and proper warm-up planning, practical rehearsal techniques for church and amateur choirs, building and using choral resonance through sound vocal pedagogy and yoga and its use in the choral rehearsal.

Joe Miller will once again lead the Westminster Chamber Choir Program and the Westminster Choral Festival. The two-week Westminster Chamber Choir Program is a professional-level mixed choral ensemble that brings together the highest level of choral and vocal artists to explore new works and to focus on unaccompanied repertoire. Singers also receive private conducting lessons. Participants are selected by audition. The audition application deadline is April 1, 2012.

Based on the tradition of summer choral festivals established by John Finley Williamson and Robert Shaw, the Westminster Choral Festival focuses on the study and preparation of a major choral-orchestral work and provides important opportunities for singers, conductors and educators at a variety of levels. Participation is open to all. This year’s festival will focus on J.S. Bach’s Mass in B Minor, which will be performed by the Chamber Choir and the Festival Choir with orchestra at Richardson Auditorium on July 20.

To learn more about all of Westminster’s summer programs or to register go to www.rider.edu/woce, or call 609-924-7416.

Westminster Signs Agreement with Naxos

Westminster Choir College has signed an agreement with Naxos of America to distribute all of Westminster’s commercial recordings. This arrangement will greatly expand the availability of Westminster’s recordings—both in brick and mortar stores and on the Internet. This means that the Westminster Choir College online store will no longer sell recordings. Instead it will link to other online stores, such as Amazon.com and iTunes, for purchases and downloads.

The Westminster commercial recording library will be distributed gradually throughout 2012. This spring *Heaven to Earth*, the Westminster Choir’s recording with Joseph Flummerfelt, will be re-released. Originally released in 2002 on the Avie label, the recording has been out of print for the past year. It has been newly packaged, and it will be available through most major recording retailers in March.

Naxos of America is the leading independent classical music distributor in the United States, specializing in state-of-the-art distribution, marketing and promotion.
Al Holcomb is New Music Education Chair

We welcome Al Holcomb as Chair of Music Education. Dr. Holcomb, a native Texan, began his music career as a middle school choral director and church musician in Houston after graduating from Texas Christian University. He went on to teach music in preschool, high school, and college settings in Connecticut while completing graduate degrees at The Hartt School, University of Hartford where he taught in the Music Education Department and served as director of summer music programs. Before moving to New Jersey, Dr. Holcomb served as chair of Music Education at the University of Central Florida and as director of Music at Winter Park Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Holcomb is a published author and frequent presenter at national and international conferences on topics of music assessment, music teacher mentoring and professional development, choral music education, adolescent vocal development and aural skill development. As a scholar-in-residence at the Connecticut State Department of Education, he was a leader in the development of standards and assessment for beginning music teachers. He served as co-chair of the Florida Music Assessment Project, and he led the development of a statewide test for all music students in grades 8 and 12.

Dr. Holcomb is also an active clinician, guest conductor and adjudicator. He has conducted honor choirs in Connecticut, Florida, Virginia, Nebraska and New Jersey, and he has held conducting positions with the Singing Boys of Houston and the Connecticut Children’s Chorus.

Why Give to THE WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND?

With more than 93 percent of our students receiving some form of financial aid, your scholarship gift allows our students access to the education they need to pursue—and achieve—their goals.

- The University is providing a record $46.5 million in financial aid and it still is not enough.
- Westminster Scholarships are a significant source of financial aid for students who need it most.

Please consider making a gift to THE WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND online at alumni.rider.edu/wccgive or by calling The Office of Annual Giving at 609-896-5392.

You Help Bring Westminster’s Beauty to the World.

Thank you.

Westminster Choirs on the Road
Tours bring the Choir College to audiences outside of Princeton.

Westminster Choir Tours the South

Four days into the New Year the Westminster Choir boarded a bus in Princeton and embarked on a very successful tour of five southern states. The ensemble performed for large audiences in West Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. They also presented workshops and shared music-making with prospective students in high schools along the way. They even managed to squeeze in a tour of the CNN studios in Atlanta. Special thanks go to alumni hosts Will Breytspraak MM’03 and Kathryn Prouty Breytspraak MM’02, Ron Neal MM’77, David Smith ’69 and Donald Trott ’79.

The Choir was delighted to see Westminster alumni at each concert and to connect with them after the performance. “Mere words cannot express the utmost excellence we experienced,” Dan and Jan Hermany ’55 wrote to the Choir after the Birmingham concert. Michael Huebner, The Birmingham News’ music critic, praised the choir’s “talent and versatility,” and wrote, “this group could easily hold its own among the nation’s best, not only for its focused musicianship, but because of its engaging, innovative programming.”

A tour highlight was the concert in Knoxville, Joe Miller’s hometown, where a sell-out audience included the rightfully proud Miller family and friends!

The tour concluded with a packed homecoming concert in Princeton, which was broadcast live on WWFM The Classical Network. If you missed the concert, you can listen on the WWFM Web site: www.wwfm.org.
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Westminster Schola Cantorum Tours in March

Westminster Schola Cantorum will travel to Virginia and North Carolina March 10–12. The ensemble, conducted by James Jordan, will present a program entitled “Music of Remembrance” that will feature works that recall historic events and inspire listeners to examine and cherish life. Check each venue’s Web site for details.

**Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.**
St. George’s Episcopal Church
905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA
www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net
540-373-4133

**Sunday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.**
White Memorial Presbyterian Church
1704 Oberlin Road
Raleigh, NC
www.whitememorial.org
919-834-3424
Alumni Host: Karl Zinsmeister MM’84

**Monday, March 12, 7 p.m.**
First Presbyterian Church
125 South Third Street
Wilmington, NC
www.firstonthird.org
910-762-6688
Alumni Host: Doug Leightenheimer MM’84

Westminster Concert Bell Choir Heads to Texas

The day after Commencement the Westminster Concert Bell Choir and its conductor Kathleen Ebling Shaw ’85 depart for their annual tour. This year’s destination is Texas. Keep an eye on your e-mail and the Westminster Web site for information about the tour route and venues.
Giving Voice to Community
Exploring memory, identity and music—and the communities they create.

What defines a community? Geography? Common cultural heritage? Shared interests or beliefs?

Community and community building have always been subjects close to the hearts of Westminster Choir College students and alumni since most share the belief that choral music—singing together—builds and strengthens community. That sense of community is a hallmark of Westminster’s campus and our alumni.

This fall and winter Westminster explored the concept of community through a project entitled Giving Voice to Community. “Each performance creates a new community—a community composed of the choir and the audience,” says Westminster Choir Conductor Joe Miller. “For those few hours the audience and the artists share an experience, a connection, a moment in time. They may enter the concert hall as strangers, and they may never see each other again, but for those few hours they are a community connected through music.”

Each person’s reaction to and memory of the concert are different, influenced by his or her own life experience. The Giving Voice to Community project tried to look below the surface of the community created at a concert or performance. As they entered the Westminster Choir’s concerts in the fall and throughout its January tour, audience members were invited to consider their lives and to choose one word that defined them as they joined the concert community. Choir members were asked to do the same. After writing the word on a piece of paper, the participant was photographed holding the paper with the selected word. All of the photographs taken before the concert were displayed in a slide show outside of the concert hall after the performance and later uploaded to the Westminster Choir College Web site.

Later this year a video will be created combining the photographs taken at each concert with some of the music performed by the choir, and it will be uploaded to You-

Tube and the Westminster Web site. This electronic creation will serve as an archive—a memory—of a unique moment in time shared by a community created through music.

Miller believes that the project has helped to better connect the performers with the audience. “Choral music,” he says, “comes from the community, rather than from a composer in isolation. The primary use of the videos will be to fulfill the mission of breaking down the wall between the choir and the community.”

Learn more about this project and view all of the photographs taken at the Westminster Choir’s fall and winter concerts on the Web at www.rider.edu/givingvoice.
Andrew Megill Conducts in Montreal

Andrew Megill MM’89 has added another title to his growing list of conducting assignments: choir conductor for the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (OSM). After serving as guest choir conductor for the OSM’s performance of Handel’s Messiah in December 2010, he was invited to prepare the orchestra’s chorus for all of its choral performances this season. The orchestra’s 2011–2012 choral repertoire includes Bach’s St. John Passion, Holst’s The Planets, Mozart’s Requiem, Boulez’s Le Soleil des eaux and Ravel’s Daphnis et Chloé.

Adept at managing a very busy professional schedule, Megill has been able to arrange his schedule at the Choir College so that he can take advantage of this opportunity while continuing to conduct Westminster Kantorei and to teach undergraduate and graduate conducting courses. Outside of Westminster, he continues to serve as associate conductor/director of choirs for the Carmel Bach Festival and as music director of The Masterwork Chorus, one of the New York area’s finest volunteer choirs.

Natalie Beck Tours with Les Misérables

When Natalie Beck ’11 was in middle school she dreamed of performing in the Broadway hit Les Misérables. Today she’s living that dream, performing in Les Misérables’ 25th Anniversary National Tour, playing the Innkeeper’s Wife and understudy for Cosette. Beck was invited to audition for the roles after a Tara Rubin agent heard her perform at Westminster’s music theater showcase in New York last spring.

She came to Westminster in the middle of her college career, transferring from Lawrence University after consulting with her high school teacher and Westminster alumnae Janna Bruene MM’81 and Brenda Smith MM’80. She says that she was attracted by the program’s combination of classical music and musical theatre. At the Choir College she studied voice with Carolann Page, as well as Lindsey Christiansen and Claudia Catania.

“I love learning the different characters and being someone else,” Beck says about performing. She’ll have plenty of opportunities to do exactly that as a member of the Les Misérables cast, traveling throughout the United States. You can check out the tour route on the production’s web site: www.lesmis.com.

The Dr. Charles H. Schisler Endowed Scholarship Honors Former Dean

Inspired by the man who made a lasting difference in their lives and the life of their alma mater, the Westminster Choir College Class of 1971 is leading an initiative to support the Dr. Charles H. Schisler Endowed Scholarship in memory of the former dean who died in June. Earnings from the endowed fund will provide financial aid to deserving students at Westminster, which Dr. Schisler served for 21 years as a member of the faculty and Dean.

“The effort to raise funds for a scholarship in Charles’ honor was a way for my class to celebrate its 40th reunion and to show our appreciation for a man who affected us so greatly. We soon realized that Charles’ influence reached far beyond the Class of ’71. We’re encouraged by the tremendous response this initiative has received from the Westminster community,” says Sharon Dundore Daikeler ’71, who is a member of the Class of 1971 Committee. “We shared this news with Charles before he passed away, and he was deeply touched by the generosity of the contributors and the knowledge that a scholarship bearing his name will help enable a student to attend Westminster Choir College.”

All Westminster alumni and friends are invited to invest in this project that will provide a lasting legacy honoring a remarkable man. To make a contribution to the Dr. Charles H. Schisler Endowed Scholarship, please send a check (payable to Westminster Choir College of Rider University) to Steve Spinner, Westminster Choir College, 101 Walnut Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540; or call 609-921-7100 ext. 8213.
Westminster Alumni Champion
The $5 Project

If you had $5 to spare, what would you do with it? Order a venti Peppermint Mocha Frappuccino at your local Starbucks? Chow down on a chicken cheese steak at Hoagie Haven?

How about using that $5 to join an Internet movement that’s supporting small charities around the country? That’s the goal of The $5 Project, which was launched last May by Westminster alumna Elizabeth (Betsy) Schauer MM’90 and 12 of her Facebook friends.

Schauer, who is a professor at the University of Arizona, got the idea after watching the American Red Cross inviting people to make $10 donations via text message to help victims of the earthquake that rocked Haiti in January 2010. She was inspired by seeing how easy it was for masses of people to make a big difference through small individual contributions. “It was small enough that it didn’t hurt, and also it was really easy,” she said.

She began contacting her Facebook friends to form a core group that could help her to plan and execute the idea. She ended up with a circle of 13 people from around the country and from throughout her life, people with diverse interests and religious and political ideologies. Five are Westminster alumni: Dána Goodman Dwyer ’91, Omar Garner ’91 and Mark Husey ’91. Another, Jordan Saul, who studied with Schauer in Arizona, is now a graduate student at the Choir College.

The project focuses on local and regional causes across the United States that normally don’t get the exposure that larger charities get. The group developed a rotation and has its charities planned out for the next several months. A new charity is revealed on the 14th of each month on The $5 Project’s Facebook page.

When Schauer contacted her about helping with The $5 Project, Dána Dwyer thought it was a great idea, “and the thought of what it could become was even more incredible,” she said. If the original 13 board members each got 10 of their Facebook friends to join the effort, and in turn they each had 10 friends to help, the result could be “really, really amazing,” she continued.

Schauer said the charities The $5 Project supports are small enough that an influx of several hundred dollars can really help. “It might not be a lot, but as long as it doesn’t cost them very much to adjust their Web site (for donations through The $5 Project), then it comes out fine,” she said.

You can learn more about The $5 Project and how you can help at www.facebook.com/thefivedollarproject

Dave Brubeck: Westminster Choir College Fellow

One of the highlights of the 1970–1971 academic year was Westminster’s recording of The Gates of Justice with its composer, jazz legend Dave Brubeck. To commemorate the 40th anniversary of that event and to honor Mr. Brubeck’s accomplishments as a composer and a performer, Westminster Choir College recognized him as a Westminster Choir College Fellow in May. The honor was presented by Dean Annis and members of the Class of 1971 in a ceremony after Commencement and before Brubeck performed in the evening at McCarter Theatre.

“Recording The Gates of Justice so many decades ago lives on in my memory and quite often I meet an alumnus who will reminisce with me about those hectic, hot and exciting days working in the old Quonset hut,” Brubeck recalled and signed the recording, which is in Talbott Library.

Standing behind Dave Brubeck and his wife, Iola, are (from left) Constance Fee ’71; Sue Ellen Page Johnson ’71, MM’82; Gerald Metz ’70; Sharon Dundore Daikeler ’71; and Donna Plasket ’71, MM’83, who is holding the autographed recording, which is now in Talbott Library’s collection.
Westminster Choir College of Rider University • Winter 2012

Fall Symposium Focused on Music for the Modern Church

Westminster presented a one-day symposium focusing on music for the modern church in October.

The day began with a Saturday Seminar that included lectures, panel discussions and interactive sessions focusing on such topics as contemporary trends in sacred music, adult choir rehearsal techniques and creative ways of making worship. A highlight was an interactive session with Swedish composer Sven-David Sandström. One of Sweden’s most performed living composers, Sandström has an impressive catalog of works that includes some 300 compositions, ranging from operas and oratorios to intimate choral and chamber music. In recent years, he has been focusing especially on sacred choral music.

In the evening the College presented a concert entitled “A New Song in Our Hearts: Sacred Music for the 21st Century.” It featured Westminster Kantorei, conducted by Andrew Megill MM’89; Christ Church Choir from New York City, conducted by Steve Pilkington, and Westminster Chapel Choir, conducted by Amanda Quist. The program included three world premieres: O magnum mysterium by Westminster student Daniel Elder, Hodie Christus natus est by Blake Henson ’05, MM’07, and God Be Merciful by Sven-David Sandström.

The Sandström work, commissioned by the Soli Deo Gloria Foundation and the Sacred Music Department of Westminster, is a six-minute unaccompanied choral piece based on Psalm 67. It is the third release in Soli Deo Gloria’s Psalms Project, which includes commissioning a series of choral works based on Psalm texts, suitable for fine church choirs. The composers selected for commissions represent a broad geographical and denominational scope with a mixture of established and younger composers who demonstrate a commitment to the highest musical standards.

Westminster Jubilee Singers Enter New Era

Westminster Choir College and the members and alumni of the Westminster Jubilee Singers honored J. Donald Dumpson last spring as he conducted his final performance of the ensemble he led for 17 years. It was a bittersweet weekend that included a tribute dinner and gala performance at the Princeton Regional Schools Performing Arts Center. Everyone wished Dumpson well as he stepped down from the podium to focus on completing doctoral studies at Temple University.

After a rigorous national search, Taione Martinez was appointed conductor of the Westminster Jubilee Singers for the 2011–2012 season. Prior to his appointment at Westminster, he served as executive artistic director of the Trenton Children’s Chorus, and he was the vocal music director at the School of the Arts in Rochester, N.Y., where he oversaw a vibrant and growing choral program.

In 2005 Martinez created the Heritage Singers, a 15-voice high school vocal ensemble specializing in the spiritual. He also formed a second Heritage Singers ensemble to serve the entire Rochester, N.Y. community. As an organist, he has presented the organ works of African-American composers in such venues as the Princeton University Chapel, St. Patrick’s Cathedral and the Interchurch Center.

Martinez earned his bachelor’s degree at Hampton University as a student of Dr. Carl Harris and Prof. Royzell Dillard. He continued his music studies at the Eastman School of Music and the Juilliard School.
What is Considered Insurmountable?

- Working at a small church with no budget and a volunteer choir?
- Teaching music from a cart you move from classroom to classroom?
- Creating a private studio from scratch in a new community?
- Succeeding in a career as an opera singer?
- Impacting the world through music with just 5,000 alumni?

Westminster alumni overcome the insurmountable every day and are amazingly successful. Our alumni are committed to Westminster’s mission of service through music, and level of artistic excellence.

This year, Westminster’s Alumni Council challenges ALL alumni to show their commitment by making a gift to The Westminster Scholarship Fund or The Westminster Fund. The goal is to add 500 more alumni donors in five months, achieving 30 percent participation from all alumni. To encourage the alumni to reach this ambitious goal, The Alumni Council has pledged 100 percent participation and $10,000 in support of these funds. The challenge concludes at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2012.

While 30 percent participation may seem insurmountable to some, it’s on par with another renowned music school, St. Olaf College. Alumni participation at Oberlin’s Conservatory of Music is at 45 percent!

Each member of the alumni community’s participation is critically important to the success of this challenge. Any gift amount that is meaningful to you shows your commitment to Westminster.

Please participate today via the enclosed business reply envelope, online at http://alumni.rider.edu/wccgive or by phone at 609-896-5392.

Together, alumni will help give the next generation the opportunity to follow in their footsteps—overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds to achieve success!

Alumni Council Sets the Standard

The Westminster Alumni Council has pledged 100 percent participation and $10,000 toward the 2012 Westminster Fund. Pictured at last year’s Alumni Reunion are Council members (from left) Jaimie Gilhooley Flack ’77, Constance M. Fee ’71 and James Litton ’56, MM’58.
2012 Schedule

Westminster Reunions

Wednesday, May 9
7:30 p.m.
Spring for Music Festival Concert
Marc-André Hamelin, piano
Men of the Westminster Symphonic Choir
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
Jacques Lacombe, conductor
VARESE: Nocturnal
WEILL: Symphony No. 1, Berliner Symphony
BUSONI: Piano Concerto
Carnegie Hall
Tickets: $25
Box Office: springformusic.com

Thursday, May 10
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Registration
All participants are asked to register
Williamson Hall (Lower Level)

10:30–11:30 a.m.
The Role That Insurance Can Play in Estate Planning
Martin Room
Charles Hackle ’88, Financial Representative from Northwestern Mutual
A continental breakfast will be served.

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.
Golden Encore Luncheon
Williamson Hall
Luncheon for all alumni in Classes 1940–1962
$15 per person

1:30–2:15 p.m.
Opera Performance
The Playhouse

2:30–3:45 p.m.
Westminster Schola Cantorum Concert
James Jordan, conductor
Bristol Chapel

4–5 p.m.
Choral Reading Session
Joe Miller, conductor
Bristol Chapel
BEETHOVEN: Mass in C, Choral Fantasy

6:30–9:00 p.m.
Welcome Alumni Celebration
Salt Creek Grill
One Rockingham Row
Princeton, NJ
Join alumni and friends for great food, conversation and reminiscences. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7 p.m.
$70 per person (includes two-hour open bar)

Friday, May 11
8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Registration
All participants are asked to register.
Williamson Hall (Lower Level)

8:15–9:15 a.m.
Class Agent Breakfast
Martin Room

9:30–10:45 a.m.
Alumni Chapel Service
Westminster Kantorei
Andrew Megill MM’89, conductor
Bristol Chapel

11:00–11:45 a.m.
Westminster Chapel Choir Concert
Amanda Quist, conductor
Bristol Chapel

Noon–1:30 p.m.
All Alumni Luncheon
The Playhouse
Presentation of Alumni Awards
Alumni Merit Award:
Donald J. Nally MM’87
Alumni Service Award:
Patricia Buchholz Guth ’81
Westminster Service Award:
Louise Hall Beard
$35 per person

1:45–2:15 p.m.
Update with Dean Robert Annis
Bristol Chapel

2:15–3 p.m.
TAKE A BOW–The Ingrid Clarfield Story
Location TBA
Celebrate MTNA Teacher of the Year
Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield.

(continued on page 14)
Westminster Reunions 2012 Schedule (continued from page 13)

3–3:30 p.m.  
How Can You Help Westminster as an Alumni Volunteer?  
Bristol Chapel  
Join us to hear about the various opportunities available for alumni to give back to Westminster as a volunteer.

3:30 p.m.  
Meet the Author  
Bristol Chapel  
Join Donald Nally MM’87, author of *Conversations with Joseph Flummerfelt*, and his subject, Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt, to learn more about his book.

4:30–5:30 p.m.  
Cocktail Reception for All Alumni  
Williamson Hall

5–6 p.m.  
President’s and Legacy Society Reception  
By invitation only  
Hamilton House  
In recognition of those who make leadership contributions of $1,000 or more to Westminster each year, Dean Robert Annis will host a reception at his home for members of Westminster’s President’s Society of leadership donors and members of the Legacy Society who, through planned gifts, have provided for the future of Westminster in their estate plans. Invited guests will have the opportunity to mingle with other generous alumni and friends of the College and members of the University administration.

5:30-8 p.m.  
Non-reunion classes enjoy dinner on your own  

Milestone Class Reunion Dinners:  
50th Reunion—Class of 1962  
Martin Room  
$40 per person

45th Reunion—Class of 1967  
(Alumni from the Classes of 1966 and 1968 are also invited)  
Fisk Room  
$40 per person

40th Reunion—Class of 1972  
The Playhouse  
$40 per person

20th and 15th Reunion—  
Classes of 1992 and 1997  
Nassau Inn  
Ten Palmer Square East  
Princeton, N.J.  
$55 per person

10th Reunion—Class of 2002  
Alumni from the Classes 2000–2003 are also invited  
The Pub (newly renovated!!)  
$40 per person

8:30 p.m.  
Westminster Choir Concert  
Joe Miller, conductor  
Bristol Chapel

Saturday, May 12

9:45 a.m.  
Pre-Ceremony Music  
Princeton University Chapel

10:30 a.m.  
Commencement  
Princeton University Chapel

1:30 p.m.  
Post Commencement reception  
The Playhouse  
Join the Classes of 2012, families and friends to celebrate. Light fare to be served.

Please note:  
All events and programs are subject to change. For the most up-to-date reunion information, please visit [http://alumni.rider.edu/2012wccreunion](http://alumni.rider.edu/2012wccreunion) or [www.rider.edu/wcc](http://www.rider.edu/wcc).
2012 Westminster Choir College Reunion Registration Form

We look forward to seeing you!

Please complete and mail this form to:
Rider University • Office of Alumni Relations • 2083 Lawrenceville Road • Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Or register online at: http://alumni.rider.edu/2012wccreunions

Please complete all items

First Name ___________________________________________ Last Name ___________________________________________
Maiden Name __________________________________________ Class year(s) __________________________________________
Guest Name(s) __________________________________________
Home Address __________________________________________
City __________________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Home Phone __________________________________________ Email Address __________________________________________

Thursday, May 10

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<td>The Role that Insurance Can Play in Estate Planning</td>
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<td>Golden Encore Luncheon</td>
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<td>Opera Performance</td>
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<td>Schola Concert</td>
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<td>Reading Session with Dr. Joe Miller</td>
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<td>Alumni Celebration</td>
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Friday, May 11

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<td>Alumni Chapel Service with Kantorei</td>
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<td>Chapel Choir Concert</td>
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<td>All Alumni Luncheon</td>
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<td>Update with Dean Annis and Faculty</td>
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<td>Cocktail Reception for All Alumni</td>
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<td>Class Reunion Dinners</td>
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<td>Class of 1962</td>
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<td>Class of 1997</td>
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<td>Class of 2002</td>
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Saturday, May 12

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<td>Commencement Tickets</td>
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<td>(There is a limit of 2 tickets per alumnus/a. You MUST reserve tickets by May 1 or you will be put on a waiting list.)</td>
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<td>Post Commencement Reception</td>
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Payment Information

☐ Check enclosed and made payable to Rider University
☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa® ☐ MasterCard® ☐ Discover® ☐ American Express®

Credit Card Number ___________________________ Expiration __________

Name as it appears on the card __________________________________________
When you create a will, you ensure that your money and property will benefit those individuals and charitable institutions you care about. As importantly, you create a lasting legacy that will sustain your vision and values into the future.

By including Westminster Choir College in your will, you can provide vitally needed support for the College:

- You can leave Westminster Choir College a specific amount of cash, securities or personal property, or a percentage of your estate.

- You can create a trust to pay an income to your spouse or other relative for life and designate the remaining balance for Westminster Choir College.

- You can designate Westminster Choir College a beneficiary of your 401(k) or 403(b) retirement account.

“Musicians can live forever. If you look at all the famous conductors, they tend to live long lives. If you have good, strong music in your heart, it does something for your health. Musicians get lost in their art and it extends their lives.”

– Carolyn Bristol Wheeler

Carolyn is the child in the photo with her parents, Barbara ’47 and Franklin E. Bristol ’47, ’49, as well as her grandparents and uncle. Carolyn’s family established an endowed scholarship as part of their estate plans.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE

We would be happy to answer any questions and show you how your bequest can make a difference. If Westminster Choir College is already included in your will, please let us know so we can thank you and include you in our Legacy Society.

For more information, please contact Karin Seidel-Klim at 609-896-5190 or kklim@rider.edu.
Henry Kerr Williams ’39 is 96 years old. In recent years, he has composed numerous works, many of which have been performed including Musical Mediations on the Psalms, which was performed at the church service at Brittany Pointe Estates, where he lives; and The Williams Maneuver, which is about the advanced CPR method created by his brother Dr. Stephen Kerr Williams. You can find a video of that work on YouTube by searching “The Williams Maneuver Song w/ Lyrics.” Henry has donated 25 compositions to the Westminster archives, including the tone poem Dawn, which is a setting of text by Edna St. Vincent Millay and dedicated to John Finley and Rhea B. Williamson. In addition, Henry has established a restricted fund, The Henry Williams Archival Fund, to preserve his works and to support the historical memorabilia of Westminster Choir College and John Finley Williamson.

Patricia Witherell Matchette ’47 returned to Westminster Choir College last May where she received an Alumni Merit Award.

Rosella Reimer Duerksen MM’50 is founder of the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. The group celebrated its 50th anniversary in spring 2011, and Rosella conducted part of the concert.

Carolyn Moody McGovern ’57 currently lives with her husband in Pinellas Park, Fla. She is music director and organist at the Clearview United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg. She also teaches at the Mattioli School of Music and Arts in St. Pete Beach and directs a secular chorus called the Island Note in St. Petersburg.

Richard E. Lynch MM’59 has been the director of institutional research for 12 years at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics.

Stephen H. Waters ’66 is proud of his student, Arhant Rao, who placed first in the Young Artists Division of the Music Educators’ Association of New Jersey competition for piano in March 2011.

Constance Fee ’71 will be the guest artist for the annual Mercury Opera Guild Donor’s Recital in Rochester, N.Y., in May 2012. Her accompanist will be Kristin Ditlow MM’05, who is currently a doctoral candidate in collaborative piano at the Eastman School of Music.

Nancy Protzman ’72 and cousins recently traveled to Wittgenborn, Germany, the village where the Protzmans go back to 1540. Nancy was featured soloist in the Protestant Church during Kirchfest, where she sang hymns in English and German. She also entertained her relatives informally with several American songs.

Tristan Rhodes ’72 will be touring in 2012 in Canada and the West Coast as a recital organist. He also conducts a singing group called Hector’s Friends.

Gerald Custer ’75 received a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting in May 2011 from the College of Music at Michigan State University. He continues to teach in the department of music at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., serves as music director of the Seaway Chorale and Orchestra in Trenton, Mich., and is director of music at the First Presbyterian Church in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Raymond Egan MM’78 conducted the premiere of his composition, Mass for St. Luke’s, for mixed chorus, soloists and jazz rhythm section on May 22, 2011 at St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, Rolling Hills Estates, Calif. The choir was composed of the St. Luke’s Kirk Choir and the Holders of the Song Chorus. The soloists were Elin Carlson, Ann-Marie Wightman, Amy Engelhardt, Matthew Terry and Lisa Webb. The rhythm section was Proven Groove.
Joyce Richardson-Melech ’79, MM’81 was awarded a Fulbright-Hayes scholarship to Mexico for one month during the summer of 2010. She was one of 16 participants chosen from a pool of more than 300 applicants. She produced a curriculum project that consists of eight lessons, which is available on the University of Texas Web site. She earned a doctorate in Music Education from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2011.

Kevin Rhein ’79 was recognized as the American Choral Directors Association’s 2011 Maine Distinguished Choral Director of the Year.

Marcie Conant ’82 is currently working as a pet nutrition specialist for the Nutro Company. Her 20-year-old daughter Kelly, is a web design and English literature major at Portland Community College.

William J. Gokelman MM’88 begins his 20th year as music professor at the University of Incarnate Word. His wife Maria is the director of music ministry at the University.

Scott McClain’s ’88, MM’99 composition Snow was performed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. by Roger Wright in February as part of a program of impressionistic music.

Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk ’91, MM’94, currently director of opera at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was recently honored by the National Opera Association for her production of Benjamin Britten’s The Burning Fiery Furnace. The production placed first in the opera production competition, which included more than 50 submissions from universities and colleges.

Response to Rebecca Oswald’s ’98 new solo piano CD Whereas has been overwhelmingly positive. The 13 songs on the recording were written while she was in Belfast last fall and winter. You can find more information on her redesigned Web site: www.rebeccaoswald.com
In Memoriam

Edith Brown Beardslee ’41 passed away on March 7, 2011.

Dorothy Goldy Stoddard ’49 passed away on January 11, 2012.

Marjorie Nobles Bunch ’48 MM’51 passed away on February 19, 2011.

Forest Warren ’63 passed away on April 11, 2010.

Harry B. “Pete” Soloway, Jr. ’70 passed away on April 13, 2011.

Robert McDermitt ’95, MM’00 passed away on September 23, 2011.

Gerre Hancock, who received an honorary doctorate from Westminster, passed away on January 21, 2012.

Faculty/Staff

Marvin Burke ’57, MM’58, former teacher at Westminster Choir College, passed away on February 6, 2011.

Delight Williamson Holt passed away on November 6, 2011. Daughter of Westminster’s founders, John Finley and Rhea B. Williamson, Delight served for a number of years as a member of the Westminster Choir College faculty. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde Holt ’39, who passed away in November 2009. Delight is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Clyde and Jane Holt, and her sister, Jean Williamson Thompson. Letters of condolence that are sent to the Westminster Office of External Affairs will be shared with the Holt family.
A Night in Central Park

The stars were out in Central Park on September 15—not in the sky, but definitely on the stage.

Despite torrential rain, more than 60,000 people huddled under umbrellas and ponchos to hear performances by the renowned Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli joined by Bryn Terfel, Celine Dion, Tony Bennett, Chris Botti, the New York Philharmonic and The Westminster Symphonic Choir…and more.

It was quite an experience for the choir members who had just a few days to learn the music and travel to New York for rehearsals. But it all came together on a four-story high stage studded with small white lights, where the students rubbed elbows with the performers and fans that included rock star Sting and actor Alec Baldwin.

The concert was recorded and aired nationally by PBS on Great Performances in December. The companion DVD and CD made it to No. 1 on Billboard’s Classical Music charts. 😊

Where’s Celine? Can you find her surrounded by students greeting her after the concert?

Photos on the Cover

*Left column, top to bottom:*

Unveiling a drawing of the new building that will house the Hillman Performing Arts Center at Westminster are (from left): Dean Robert L. Annis, Henry L. Hillman, Elsie Hilliard Hillman ’48, and President Mordechai Rozanski.

Renowned bass-baritone Eric Owens conducted a master class with Westminster students in the spring and extended his stay so that he could work with everyone, including the alternates.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Philadelphia Orchestra’s new music director, visited campus to prepare for the Westminster Symphonic Choir’s performances of Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Orchestra in November.

Attending the patron dinner before the popular An Evening of Readings and Carols performance were (from left): Betty Wold Johnson, Arthur Morgan, Barbara Morgan and President Mordechai Rozanski.

*Top, left to right:*

Westminster Opera Theater presented Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute) with orchestra in the fall. Michael Philip Davis was stage director and William Hobbs is music director. This spring’s opera will be Handel’s *Alcina*. Albert Sherman will direct and William Hobbs will be music director.

The Westminster Choir went behind the scenes at CNN when they visited Atlanta on tour.